

California Historical Records Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2010

Location: Teleconference meeting

Members Participating: Peter Blodgett, Gabriele Carey, William Estrada, Christine Figueroa, Wendy Franklin, Jim Hofer, Laren Metzger, Chuck Wilson, Jennifer Martinez Wormser, Claude Zachary

Members Not Participating: Gary Kurutz, Nancy Lenoil

Deputy State Coordinator Laren Metzger called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Laren noted that this meeting would focus only a review of the four NHPRC grant applications and reminded members to send their rating forms to him by July 16th.

Review of NHPRC Grant Applications: Digitizing Historical Records

Getty Research Institute

There was a general consensus that the records have a national significance, in particular, for a study of architectural history, and will be widely used. The plan of work seems solid and the staff is very capable. There was some concern about the high image capture rate, but the applicant is proposing the use of a camera for direct image capture. The board is interested in seeing the results of a digitizing project using this approach. Overall, this is a very sound application.

Recommendation: Fully fund – 10

University of Southern California

Claude recused himself from a consideration of this proposal.

The records are important, especially for a study of architectural history in Los Angeles and for urban studies generally. There was some concern expressed that the records do not rise to a level of national significance, but a majority of the members disagreed with this assessment. It is not clear in the plan of work whether new metadata is being created. Also, there is no reference to national standards for digitizing. The applicant is requesting NHPRC funding for a portion of the salary of an existing staff member, which troubled some members. Overall, a good proposal.

Recommendation: Fully fund – 7 Reject – 2

Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning

Bill recused himself from a consideration of this proposal.

The records have no national significance and will likely be used mostly by county staff. In addition, only a five-year period is covered by the series. The plan of work is poor and the budget section is a disaster.

Recommendation: Reject – 9

Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History

Bill recused himself from a consideration of this proposal.

The records are important and have a national significance, especially for Western historians. The plan of work is sound, although there are questions about the online work that will be done. It appears that the applicant will select images from different collections rather than work on an entire collection or series as the guidelines require. It is difficult to figure out how the fringe benefits were compiled. The applicant is requesting NHPRC funding to fully cover the salary of an existing staff member, which bothered several members. The application has merit, but includes a number of deficiencies.

Recommendation: Resubmit – 4 Reject – 3 Fund – 2

The meeting was adjourned at 4:47 p.m.